

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 L-03 /035 W

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R 220923Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3191

UNCLAS PARIS 21339

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (CENTER FOR FOREIGN STUDY)

SUBJECT: COMPLAINTS BY AMERICAN STUDENTS AGAINST CENTER
FOR FOREIGN STUDY

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM
AMERICAN STUDENTS DURING LAST TWO WEEKS AGAINST CENTER
FOR FOREIGN STUDY'S SUMMER PROGRAM IN PARIS. PROGRAM'S
HEAD OFFICE IS AT 216 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 1, BOX
606, ANN ARBOR MICHIGAN 48107.

2. ON JULY 6, 1976 CENTER'S LOCAL HEAD PAMELA TYTELL
DISMISSED TWO STUDENTS FROM PARIS PROGRAM TWO DAYS
AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN PARIS. BOTH VICTOR FELSZEGI AND
MARK ROBINSON HAD PAID APPROXIMATELY \$1400 FOR SIX WEEK
CINEMA COURSE INCLUDING ROUND TRIP AIR TRANSPORTATION
AND ACCOMODATION. MISS TYTELL TOLD CONOFF BOTH YOUNG
MEN WERE DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS WHEREAS THEY TOLD CONOFF
THEY WERE SERIOUSLY DISSATISFIED WITH QUALITY OF COURSE
AND SUPPOSED MISREPRESENTATIONS IN PROGRAM'S BROCHURES.

3. OTHER STUDENTS HAVE VOICED COMPLAINTS ABOUT
CENTER'S FRENCH AND COOKING COURSES. MAIN THRUST OF
DISSATISFACTION IS QUALITY OF COURSES AND BAD ORGANI-
ZATION OF PROGRAM. ALSO STUDENTS BELIEVED THEIR MEALS
WERE INCLUDED IN FEES PAID, BUT THEY NOW FIND THEY
REQUIRED TO BUY LUNCH AND DINNER FOR AN ALLOWANCE OF
LESS THAN \$2 A DAY.

4. CONOFF HAS ADVISED STUDENTS THAT IF PROBLEMS CANNOT
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BE RESOLVED AMICABLY HERE, THEIR ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO

FILE LEGAL COMPLAINTS AGAINST MICHIGAN HEADQUARTERS.
PROBLEMS PRESENTED IN PARIS APPEAR UNLIKELY TO BE
SETTLED TO STUDENTS' SATISFACTION.

5. IT POSSIBLE DEPARTMENT MAY RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM
PARENTS OF SOME STUDENTS IN THIS PROGRAM AS SEVERAL
STUDENTS HAVE STATED THAT THEY HAVE EITHER WRITTEN
OR TELEPHONED HOME CONCERNING THEIR DISSATISFACTION
AND THEIR NEED FOR FUNDS FOR LIVING EXPENSES. MISS
TYTELL HAS WRITTEN TO PARENTS OF FELSZEGI AND
ROBINSON STATING THEY HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FROM PROGRAM.
DEPARTMENT MAY FIND IT HELPFUL TO CONTACT MAIN OFFICE
OF CENTER FOR FOREIGN STUDY IN MICHIGAN. DR. GALE
IS LISTED AS PROGRAM'S DIRECTOR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS21339
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760282-0084
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760732/aaaabbxj.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <16 NOV 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMPLAINTS BY AMERICAN STUDENTS AGAINST CENTER FOR FOREIGN STUDY
TAGS: CASC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006